

# A GREAT AMERICAN ADVENTURER

## "CHINESE WARD," SOLDIER OF FORTUNE AND MAKER OF HISTORY

BY G.T. FERRIS

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IN THE early autumn of 1860 a New York merchant interested in the machinery and junk business received a letter from Shanghai, China, which interested him curiously. It was from an old friend and associate, whom he had believed to be another example of unaccountable disappearance.

Frederick Townsend Ward had gone to Mexico more than two years before to sell some old ordnance to the government. Having accomplished this in due season, he had suddenly dropped out of ken, on the eve of supposedly returning home. Then, the surprise which greeted these words, if any act of so erratic a person could amaze.

"I have entered into the Chinese service, have very fine prospects at present and hope soon to have a comfortable fortune. I have been transformed from a Yankee into a Chinaman in good style, with a good establishment. I a few days ago, took the second city of importance in the viceroyalty from the rebels. I have made a pretty good thing of it and hope in a few weeks to take another city."

This communication was a veritable bolt from the blue. A restless, almost penniless vagabond of a man, whom his friends had given up as lost, suddenly emerging in China as a master of men and a conqueror of cities! Our own bloody slaughter house had not yet opened its shambles, but the newspapers were so absorbed in an extraordinary political situation that they gave scarcely a paragraph to such a curious piece of news when it was made known to them.

A few weeks later another similar letter reached the staid merchant.

"I was then (referring to his first letter) about starting up country, but I have since returned, having been badly wounded while attempting to scale the walls of Sing Poo City, and was compelled to return to Shanghai for treatment. I got several shot wounds, the worst one went through the cheek and down through the roof of the mouth. They, that is, the missionaries and some English and Dutch merchants, talk very badly about me and my measures. I having used both rather unceremoniously when found having connections with the rebels, but, Jack, I am independent of them all and consequently do not care a — for them."

"China is the country for a man who is able to take risks and is gifted with good common sense. I have made more money in a few weeks than I could at brokerage in New York in twenty years."

Sixty years ago American pulpits and church conventions rang with the glad tidings that a Christian movement had sprung, spontaneously as it were out of Chinese soil. The future of missionary effort was thus assured. It was hoped, in the blossoming of a far-reaching native force that would speedily win the heathen to the banners of the cross. These hopes, however, were blasted as the rise of the religious cult of a Makka schoolmaster developed into one of the most ruthless and devastating civil wars of history, and the nature of the outrageous travesty, which had perverted a few Christian doctrines into a grotesque blasphemy, came to be understood.

Hung Su Tsuen had sought in vain for that recognition before the literary boards at Canton which was the passport of official ambition. In Canton he had absorbed some crude notion of Christian doctrine from a Methodist missionary, and when he returned home, crazed by disappointment, to live as a humble pedagogue, he began to dream dreams and speak prophecies as one directly inspired from heaven. As time went on, his propaganda drew to its banner hordes from the ranks of discontent and crime, and an army of ragged desperadoes began to move from west to east in the early fifties to establish the claim of the crazy fanatic (who professed to be the younger brother of Jesus Christ and directly consecrated by the Holy Ghost) to be the imperial head of the empire, the annals of Oriental barbarism. It was estimated by conservative opinion that in ten years this infernal regime known as the Taiping rebellion had cost the empire some two and a half billions of dollars and the destruction of several millions of lives by war, starvation and wholesale massacres.

Hung Su Tsuen, as Tien Wang or "Heavenly King," was enthroned at Nanking and he practically controlled the great provinces of Kiang Su and Sheh-Kiang, the heart of the richest tea and silk production of China. His robber bands indeed raided down to the very gates of Shanghai, and the foreign merchants there were sometimes hard put to it to defend the city, though nominally on amicable terms with the Nanking despot, on whom their trade so largely depended.

One autumn morning at Shanghai in 1859 a slight, dark-complexioned, insignificant-looking man called at the office of Tah-ke, a mandarin of the third button, a banker and merchant well regarded by the foreign residents.

It was Frederick Townsend Ward, who had just landed in Shanghai from San Francisco. He was rough and seedy-looking, with a sailor's roll in his gait, but with a glance of fire and a solid, square-set jawbone to redeem his face. Tah-ke was not encouraging when Ward spoke of his desire to enter the Chinese service as a free lance, and answered that he could get a belly-full of fighting by joining the Shanghai volunteers.

"Thank you for nothing," said Ward, "but I can do that without your help. I didn't come for that sort of advice. I could make you help me and help yourself at the same time. You don't see it now, but you will."

Who, then was Ward? Born at Salem, Mass., about thirty-two years before his arrival in China, he came of a race of deep-sea skippers, who had sailed on all oceans, arctic and tropical, and been noted for their handspike and belaying-pin discipline. Daring and resolution ran in his blood.

At the age of nineteen he had won his first

mate's certificate. He took a turn in New York at the business of ship brokerage and marine supplies. Thence he disappeared for several years and was heard of in Central America, where he had joined Walker, the filibuster, narrowly escaping the fate of that adventurer. Rumor also associated him with the ill-starred exploits of Wheat and Henningsen in the same region. He had been heard of also in the Crimea as enlisted in the French zouaves, from which he managed to escape by desertion to save himself from drum-head court martial after having slapped his captain in the face.

These and other adventures loomed in his background.

Not disconcerted by Tah-ke's cold reception, he took things into his own hands. He had enough money to hire a small force of rapscallions, native and foreign, the kind that infest an Oriental seaport like rats, and among them a few deserters from the British military and naval forces, who knew something about drill. The most important of these acquisitions was James Burgevine, a North Carolinian adventurer, who had severed allegiance to the "Heavenly King." Tah-ke had sold to Ward for a bagatelle a batch of condemned muskets and bayonets, which armed this ragged and unreliable battalion. Ward and Burgevine whipped them into shape not only by camp drill but by skirmishing with the Taipings at every opportunity, for from their cities of Sung Kiang and Sing Poo only two or three days' march from Shanghai, the rebels made constant incursions.

Ward's primary object was to inspire his men with confidence in him and in themselves. He lived on the country and when he captured Taipings he converted them into recruits instead of refusing quarter, as was the habit of the imperialists. Very soon the exploits of Ward's irregulars began to make a buzz in the foreign clubs and counting rooms. He had created his own standing and when he went again to Tah-ke that worthy received him with low salaams.

He went straight to his mark like a bullet, with the manner of one dictating, not accepting, terms. He proposed a formal contract, which Tah-ke was to negotiate with the Futai of Shanghai. Ward was to have \$100,000 from the government for every city he captured, of which \$25,000 was to go to the Chinese partners. He was to have the first day's looting, after which the captured place would be turned over to the imperialists.

Tah-ke was pledged to finance Ward for one year, furnishing him with arms, ammunition and stores, within a certain limit of cost which the other thought would suffice.

Within a month Ward led his first expedition against Sung Kiang, which was garrisoned by about 5,000 Taipings under the command of an Englishman named Gardner, an ex-officer of the British army. The attack failed, with serious loss to Ward's 500 assailants.

One thing had happened, however, which proved of vast import to him. He had taken a rebel prisoner of some rank, who confessed to him that one of the bastions had a choked-up subterranean saltpore. If he could make a secret entrance through this, it would save the necessity of a desperate and bloody assault.

General Ward recognized his little command and, with 5,000 imperialists to co-operate, made his second attempt. Sung Kiang, with its five-mile circuit of wall twenty feet high, was captured; and to Ward's great credit he prevented anything like indiscriminate massacre.

Leaving Sung Kiang with an officer of his own in command, he returned to Shanghai, where his achievement had caused a tremendous sensation.

There comes now an interim in Ward's fighting toils, for half a score of unhealed wounds compelled him to go to Paris for treatment, but we find him back again in the early summer of 1861 where his presence was sorely needed. The foreign powers still pursued their hands-off policy and allowed the Taipings to sound their drums and tom-toms within earshot of the swarming treaty port. In a diplomatic way, indeed, formal recognition of the "Heavenly King" as the dominant power was in the air.

Ward's coming shattered that intention, which, if carried out, would have destroyed the empire. He grasped the situation and, through

the fatal of the province of Cheh-Kiang, obtained directly from the Peking authorities a commission to raise and command an imperial Chinese levy. His experience told him that, well drilled and daringly handled, the natives had plenty of good soldier-stuff and would fight and die in their tracks.

A singular thing happened at this time. At the principal temple of Confucius one day he discovered in one of the consecrated niches a scepter-like staff of ebony with a curiously carved head of jade minutely inscribed. The effect on his native valet was remarkable, and he learned that it was one of the great talismans of the empire. When he appeared with it before his troops the next day they fell to their knees in ranks. Thenceforward he carried no sword, only this magic baton attached to his wrist with a thong. In the eyes of the Chinese, even the Taipings, it made him an invincible leader. Shortly afterward, indeed, it saved his life.

A large detachment from the main force of Chung Wang camped too near his city of Sung Kiang. Sallying forth with two regiments, he struck their camp like a thunderbolt at night, cutting the force to pieces.

The clock now struck twelve for Frederick Ward. A courier arrived post haste from the Futai of Shanghai, ordering him to report there for co-operation with the Anglo-French contingent. He obeyed with two picked regiments, leaving Sung Kiang strongly garrisoned under Colonel Forester. Admiral Sir James Hope had arrived and had insisted that General Ward should be fully recognized as the most efficient factor of salvation.

The first move was against Kaschiao, which threatened the supplies of Shanghai. Ward and his Celestials carried the defenses in the most gallant fashion, leaving Sir James Hope's contingent but little to do except gather in two thousand prisoners.

All the English officers were delighted with the splendid dash and confidence marking Ward's attack, and when Sir James Michel, the British commander-in-chief, arrived from Hong Kong with Sepoy reinforcements he agreed cordially with Admiral Hope when these two reviewed Ward's forces at Sung Kiang.

It was advised that Ward be commissioned by the Chinese government to raise from 6,000 to 10,000 men and be invested with a large range of authority.

The result was an extravagantly phrased receipt from Peking that commissioned General Ward to raise and command 6,000 men, named him admiral-general, and made him a mandarin of the "peacock feather." With it came the famous "Yellow Jacket," equivalent in China to the Golden Fleece or the Order of the Garter. The new force was designated Chun Chen Chun, "The Ever Victorious Army."

It was in April, 1862, that a council of war was held at Sung Kiang. Sir James Hope, General Staveley, the French Admiral Potret, General Ward and Viceroy Li-ch being present. It was here that Ward's general plan was fully sanctioned. This showed great grasp of military strategy. The proposition was to capture the cities of Kading, Sing Poo, Nafao, Tsaoiin and lesser fortified places within a radius of forty miles from Shanghai.

Needless to linger on the details of the on Kading, Sing Poo, Nafao and Tsaoiin. General Ward in each case, magic baton in hand, headed the assaulting column through the breach made by artillery, and his men charged to the very gates of Tophet, reckless in their ardor, mad with the joy of battle. In the Tsaoiin affair the gallant French admiral Potret was shot dead at his side.

Tah-ke fell before his assault like a house of cardboard, but one of the last hostile bullets fired pierced Ward's chest with a fatal wound. He was taken aboard a British gunboat commanded by Lieutenant Roderick Dew and was brought down to Ningpo.

Splendid funeral obsequies at the temple of Confucius in Sung Kiang were held, at which all the foremost personages of that part of China, native and foreign, attested their grief and paid their homage to the deeds of the man who had practically arrested the disintegration of the empire.



### Congressional Notes

Jingoes got another setback when the White House announced that the government of Japan had authorized the expenditure of \$1,000,000 for the erection of a building and tea grounds at the Panama Pacific exposition in San Francisco.

Representative Gardner of Massachusetts (Rep.), in the course of a speech on the house "steel trust" investigating committee's report, challenged Col. Roosevelt to make plain his attitude on the trust problem.

The Progressive party made its formal bow in the senate. Senator Poinsett, as a member of the new party, asked that Col. Roosevelt's speech at Chicago August 6 be printed as a public document.

Secretary Fisher has a plan to allow government coal lands to cities, which in turn may operate them under certain regulations to supply municipal needs as well as those of citizens.

By unanimous vote the house dismissed the contest brought by Charles J. Maurer for the seat in congress held by Representative Richard Bartholdt of St. Louis.

The Oldfield bill to revise the patent laws to meet the recent patent monopoly decision of the supreme court was reported to the house by Chairman Oldfield of the patent committee.

President Taft told friends he expected to veto the legislative-executive-judicial appropriation bill, which carries an amendment abolishing the commerce court. In addition to his objection to abolishing the commerce court, Mr. Taft is said to be opposed to the proposal to limit civil service employees to seven-year terms.

The new policy of requiring all national banks to have an examining committee for the detailed observation of its business and conduct of its employees, aside from the visits made by the national bank examiners, is proving its worth, according to a statement made by Lawrence O. Murray, comptroller of the treasury.

By a vote of 44 to 11 the senate refused to strike from the Panama canal bill the provision exempting American ships from payment of tolls for passage through the Panama canal.

Favorable report on the senate resolution appropriating \$100,000 for the relief and transportation of refugees from Mexico was agreed on by the house committee, which amended it to make a fund available for all points along the Mexican border.

President Taft in a special message to congress urged immediate enactment of legislation to provide an operating force for the Panama canal, the governing final zone and the fixing of maximum tolls. The president indicated that the question of free passage to American ships might be decided later.

President Taft vetoed the bill granting the Dixie Power company a franchise to dam the White river at Carter, Ark., in furtherance of a water power enterprise. That the bill involves navigation interests and the government's conservation policy are the reasons set forth in the veto message transmitted to congress.

The fight to pass the \$150,000,000 pension appropriation bill was lost by one vote in the senate and the measure was sent back to the house for further conference.

After a motion to agree to the house amendment to abolish the seventeen outlying pension agencies had been lost on a tie vote, the senate agreed, 29 to 26, to stick to its demand that the pension agencies be retained.

The militia pay bill, which has been favorably reported from the house committee on military affairs, contains a provision which will settle once and for all the mooted question as to whether the militia can be ordered to duty outside the limits of the United States.

It has been asserted by the president's friends in both houses that he will veto all of the tariff bills that reach him. Such action would be accepted as final by congress, and no attempt would be made at this session to repass the measures.

Much unfavorable comment is heard about the senate over what seems to be an organized effort to postpone consideration of the Panama canal bill until the next session of congress.

Since the first Monday of December, nearly 21,000,000 words have been put into the Congressional Record. If congress adjourns when expected, the chatty score will exceed 25,000,000.

The investigation of the record of Justice Daniel T. Wright in the Gompers contempt case has been begun by members of the Nebraska delegation in congress in conformity with the plank of the Nebraska Democratic state platform, which renounces the decision and calls on the congressmen to inquire into it.

The absolute divorcement of the ownership of railroads and industrial organizations was declared by Representative Stanley of Kentucky in the house of representatives as one preventive of such monopoly as he described the United States Steel corporation to be.

The senate passed the Panama canal bill by a vote of 47 to 15. The bill as it emerges from the senate not only disregards Great Britain's protest against free tolls for American ships, but contains radical legislation affecting several of the big railroad systems.

### MISSOURI NEWS

Ferrell, Twice Convicted, Appeals.

Fulton.—The supreme court has set October 9 as the time for hearing the appeal of W. C. Ferrell, charged with second degree murder. Ferrell has been tried twice in the Callaway county circuit court, convicted each time and sentenced to a term of ten years in the penitentiary under each conviction. He has been out on bond since his last conviction. Ferrell is charged with killing W. L. Moore, near Holt Summit, in June, 1908.

Shelby County Railroad Extension.

Macon.—The Shelby County railroad, of which Louis B. Houck is president, is now planning an extension from Shelbyville northward to Novato, Knox county, thus providing a line thirty miles long, with Shelbyville as the southern terminus. The road is now in operation for only eight miles, but its promoters declare that as a strictly local enterprise it has proven a success.

Accuse 37 of Bootlegging.

Warrensburg.—Prosecuting Attorney Chaney issued thirty-seven informations against alleged bootleggers, and county officers and the police immediately arrested fourteen offenders and confiscated the liquor on hand. The transfer of the liquor to the sheriff's office employed a dray for several hours, and that officer's rooms resembled the warehouse of a beer depot.

Thoroughbred Horses Die in Fire.

Montgomery.—The stable of thoroughbred horses, owned by Solon Brandt of this city, burned to the ground with several fine animals and all contents of the building. Among the fine animals that perished were Nutwood, Gratton, Robert Gratton, John Robinson and Vice Chancellor. The cause of the fire is unknown.

Fighting Editors on Bond.

Huntsville.—Editors John N. Hamilton of the Herald and Van W. Davis of the Times, who fought a duel in the postoffice here, in which both were slightly injured by bullets, and a bystander, Pearl Gunn, was shot, have been placed under \$1,000 bond, and their cases continued.

County Court Orders Surveys.

Poplar Bluff.—Several surveys for new roads were ordered by the Butler county court, which also received a petition for organizing a drainage district in one section of the county.

Begin Work on New Capitol.

Jefferson City.—The work of constructing the temporary capitol for the use of the legislature and state offices while the new state house is under construction is under way.

Duelists' Victim to Live.

Huntsville.—Dart, Gunn, a youth, who was wounded when John Hamilton, editor of the Herald, and Van Davis, editor of the Times, engaged in a street duel, will recover.

Live Frog Eight Feet in Ground.

Springfield.—Workmen excavating for a new building discovered a live bullfrog at the depth of eight feet. The frog was found at a spot where a well stood 20 years ago.

Missouri Hogs Famous.

Columbia.—Missouri hogs, like Missouri mules, are becoming famous all over the world. W. B. Wallace of Buncheon, shipped two hogs to Brazil by way of New York city.

Steers Are Sold at \$10.10.

Chicago, Ill.—Beef steers from Monticau county, Mo., sold here for \$10.10 a hundred pounds. The price was due to the shortage of cattle and hogs in this market.

Hopkins Woman, 102, Dies.

Hopkins.—Mrs. Nancy McKee Harsh, aged 102 years, died here after an illness of a week. She was a native of Pennsylvania, but lived in Missouri many years.

Hadley Liberates Two Men.

Jefferson City.—Gov. Hadley paroled two convicts, swelling his clemency record to 536. He let out Fred Zimmerman of Harrison county, committed November, 1911, for two years for assault with intent to kill, and Joe Meyers of Kansas City, convicted October, 1904 of burglary and larceny, and sentenced to thirteen years.

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114 Graduated at Cape Girardeau.

Cape Girardeau.—The summer term of the Cape Girardeau normal school closed and 114 were graduated. The enrollment for the summer term was 560.

Caught in Machinery.

Huntsville.—John Hughes, an employee of the Northern Central Coal company, was caught in the machinery at the slack washer. His arm was crushed and broken and his head and back injured.

Ship Body to Scotland for Burial.

Fulton.—The body of John McLaren, who died in St. Louis, was sent to Denny, Scotland, for burial. J. E. Maughan, a Fulton banker, went to St. Louis to arrange for forwarding the remains.